



## Papoose Pass Portion of the Shasta-Trinity Trail

**Length:** 7 ¼ miles from Sheep Camp to Boulder Creek Falls Trailhead on South Shore Drive

**Difficulty level:** Moderate to difficult

**Note:** Horses are not allowed on this trail due to unfinished sections where the trail is very narrow and has some steep drop-offs.

**Trailhead directions:** Starting at the Whiskeytown Visitor Center, drive south on Kennedy Memorial Drive towards Whiskeytown Dam. At the fork in the road, go to the right and cross the dam. The paved road winds along the lake to the Brandy Creek Beach area. Turn left onto Brandy Creek Road, which will quickly become a good dirt road. Drive approximately 2.6 miles to Sheep Camp. Park your vehicle along the roadside prior to or immediately after crossing the bridge, or in the limited space available adjacent to the restroom. Do not park in the campsites. The trailhead is located immediately west of the campground on Shasta Bally Road.

### **Trail Description:**

The first 2 ½ miles of the trail is an easy to moderate climb culminating at a large flat area. The first small section follows a seasonal creek where numerous dogwoods show off their large white blooms in spring. The mixed coniferous and deciduous woodland features large interior live oaks, big leaf maple, incense cedars, Douglas fir, knobcone, ponderosa and sugar pines.

After the large flat, there is about 1/3 mile of unfinished trail which is very narrow and has some steep drop-offs. If you have a bike, you will have to carry it in some places.

When you reach Papoose Pass, a valley between two ridges where Brandy Creek watershed ends and Boulder Creek watershed begins, the finished trail will resume. On your way up to the saddle, you will have several vistas to the south of the park (views of lower Shasta Bally and South Fork Mountain) and if you look back, several views to the northeast (the Visitor Center and the lake at the water curtain). At the saddle, you will find evidence of the 2008 fire caused by a lightning storm that burned over 6,200 acres in the park.

After the saddle, you will walk another 2 ½ miles, mostly downhill, to reach the Boulder Creek Falls Trail. Along the way, there are some very rocky trail areas as well as some lovely stretches where the trail follows the East Fork of Boulder Creek. A short climb will precede your arrival to the falls trail.

At the trail junction, you may choose to walk an extra ½ mile to see Boulder Creek Falls, or you may follow the signs to continue the 2 miles to the trailhead on South Shore Drive. There are three creek crossings (you may get your feet wet unless you are able to rock hop) on the way downhill to South Shore Drive, as well as a backcountry campsite and a historic home site last occupied in the 1950s.

**Recommendation:** Park one vehicle at Sheep Camp and another vehicle at the Boulder Creek Falls Trailhead on South Shore Drive to make a one-way hike of approximately 7 ¼ miles.